A post in the r/Murderbot subreddit, moderated by **sanctuary_moon**.

Title: The Internet Archive's Lending Library has almost the whole series!

Created by **Jolly-Bell-5248** at 2:53PM on March 28th 2024

If anyone's unaware of the Internet Archive yet, they have a digital library where people can donate them books, and then they digitize them for people to digitally borrow!

which means you can read almost the whole Murderbot Diaries series for free!

1st Murderbot book: All Systems Red

the 2nd: Artificial Condition

the 3rd: Rogue Protocol

the 4th: Exit Strategy

the 5th chronologically: Fugitive Telemetry

the 6th chronologically: Network Effect

The 7th book, System Collapse, which came out a few months ago, hasn't been donated yet. I'll see how much it would cost to ship my copy to them...

ucat97 commented on the original topic at 4:35PM

So if enough people do this then authors and publishers will make no money from their efforts and we'll get no more books to read.

Are you an idiot?

AdMedical1721 replied at 4:45PM:

That's not how it works. You can look up the effect of Libraries on publishing, and the relationship is always positive (in a capitalist sense) because readers who love a book they read from the library or find useful are very likely to buy a copy of that book for themselves. Physical copies of books have been shared by libraries and individuals for over 150 years in in the US without societal collapse so I think we can also weather the storm of free digital lending. Not everything can or should be monetized.

Jolly-Bell-5248 replied to ucat97 at 5:30PM:

Do you...understand what libraries are? The Internet Archive is literally a library. Every book they lend out was bought and donated to them. Do you not understand what libraries are????? I'm literally??? going to be buying a brand new copy of System Collapse to donate to their library??????? It's a library?????

Jolly-Bell-5248 replied again at 5:55PM:

Seriously, how do you read the Anticapitalist Robots In Space Series and get mad about libraries. That's the epitome of capitalist bootlicking.

flyingfishstick replied to ucat97 at 5:50PM:

Don't be rude, my guy. It's basically a library.

WalksTheAges replied at 5:53PM:

it actually literally is a Library <3

flyingfishstick replied at 5:57PM:

Doh! It's even right there in the name. 😂

WalksTheAges commented on the original topic at 5:47PM:

For the person who doesn't understand how Libraries work and that they are good things --- Libraries universally allow more people, especially of low income, access to books. If you read a book at the library that you love, you are much, much more likely to go on to buy that book so you can own it forever, and when you find a book you love, and a series you love, you are much more likely to follow an author an buy future books.

Unless you're going to also throw a fit over the concept of Used Books (another way most readers discover new series!) , then you're not actually trying to support authors, you're just against poor people having access to books. Public libraries all over the world are important accessibility tools that allow anyone to read even if they don't have access to local bookshops; the more popular a book is at a local library, the more copies that Library can order, and the more exposure and profit authors have.

I have have a library card, and that means I have access to their Elibary, run through the Libby app, which is how I first discovered The Murderbot Diaries; I now have 2 physical copies (the latest books), bought brand new.

Libaries do not lead to less book sales, it literally just means more people are able to read more books, and are able to invest money in books they truly love and want to keep forever.

If I'm walking around a book store surrounded by $20 and $30 books, you can bet that what I'm buying is books I know I already love and want to keep forever to reread, I'm not dropping $$$ on a book I might hate, because I read them at the local library first, or I borrow them 1 hour at a time on the Internet Archive's Lending Library.

For those unaware, the Lending Library is not a free for all: It's a Library. You need to create a (free) account, and you can borrow books 1 hour at a time to read their PDF. If you have a reading disability (like I do!!!) you can apply for Print Disability Access,

which allows you to download DRM-Encrypted PDFs to read offline on your computer with Adobe Digital Editions, so you're not rushing to read before the 1 hour access is up, but the file is not going anywhere, it is only available to read in Adobe Digital Editions, but it makes it much easier to zoom in and enlarge the text if you struggle with the small print in traditional physical books .

IndigoNarwhal replied at 5:59PM:

“I have have a library card, and that means I have access to their Elibary, run through the Libby app, which is how I first discovered The Murderbot Diaries; I now have 2 physical copies (the latest books), bought brand new.”

Just to second this: I also started this series through my local library, using the Libby app. I now own the entire series in both audio book and hardback format.

Along with providing access for people who can't afford to buy, Libraries really are a fantastic way for

people to find authors and series they might never have tried, and to build their audience!

WalksTheAges replied at 6:02PM:

I also just found this little video, specifically created by an author as she explains how important Libraries are :)

https://youtu.be/TLKugvV18o0

Jolly-Bell-5248 replied at 6:08PM:

Yep, especially because how espensive books have gotten over the past few years. I paid $35 for my copy of Network Effect. That's a lot of money when you're poor and disabled. I would never have spent any money on this series at all if I hadn't been able to borrow them first to see if I even liked them!

It's just a fact that people are more likely to buy books they already like! Most people can't afford to be dropping $35 on a book they haven't read yet and might absolutely hate!

thoughtsinthefog replied at 12:11AM March 29 2024:

I got into this series by becoming a Tor book club member (bc I do like their books, as they're the deliciously queer dark ward of giant publisher Macmillan), and I couldn't believe that every week for a month, I got a free, DRM-stripped epub of each Murderbot novella as a promotional thing to sell Network Effect that was coming out that year.

It's just so f*ing arbitrary.

It is a dystopian vision, only getting access to books if they're part of the publisher's promotions. Even if Internet Archive went down (which would be an enormous failing I can't bear to think about), digital peer lending (me with those DRM-stripped epubs to get others hooked, and many have spent $$ to own those books now!) will never go away, and should never go away.

stabbytheroomba commented on the original topic at 6:21PM:

Libraries are amazing and I wholeheartedly support them, but what The Internet Archive does has little to do with what libraries do. And an easy way to tell is that they aren’t offering an epub (libraries would pay authors royalties over each time they lend it out) but a scan of the paper book. There are legal limits to how libraries can offer digitised versions of books that are still in copyright and this isn’t one of them.

Jolly-Bell-5248 replied at 6:25PM:

It allows people to donate and borrow books for free. You can apply for print-disabled special access if you have disabilities that make it harder to read the scanned versions. The Internet Archive IS a library. Just because they don't offer epubs doesn't mean it's not a library. Again. How are you people fans of Anticapitalist Robots in Space but then hate libraries?? Which includes the Internet Archive!

stabbytheroomba replied to **stabbytheroomba** at 6:25PM:

That said: what other users have said about libraries in general is true! The Internet Archive just isn't one of them. Go join a real library, as far as I know many of them in the US are free and have a good offer of books, and their lending library for ebooks is usually really good! (Hearsay - I'm not in the US.)

WalksTheAges replied at 6:25PM:

https://deadline.com/2022/09/authors-open-letter-publishers-lawsuit-internet-archive-1235129802/

"Neil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow And Other Authors Publish Open Letter Protesting Publishers' Lawsuit Against Internet Archive LibraryNeil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow And Other Authors Publish Open Letter Protesting Publishers' Lawsuit Against Internet Archive Library

A group of authors and other creative professionals are lending their names to an open letter protesting publishers' lawsuit against the Internet Archive Library, characterizing it as one of a number of efforts to curb libraries' lending of ebooks.

Authors including Neil Gaiman, Naomi Klein, and Cory Doctorow lent their names to the letter, which was organized by the public interest group Fight for the Future.

“Libraries are a fundamental collective good. We, the undersigned authors, are disheartened by the recent attacks against libraries being made in our name by trade associations such as the American Association of Publishers and the Publishers Association: undermining the traditional rights of libraries to own and preserve books, intimidating libraries with lawsuits, and smearing librarians,” the letter states.”

stabbytheroomba replied at 6:32PM:

I don’t hate libraries and you’d do well to use some nuance. Libraries are amazing - because they offer books, often for free. While still supporting and paying authors! Wild. Copyright is still a thing and scanning paper books that are in copyright and making them available for free is something entirely different. I work at a library and you’re showing that you literally don’t understand what you’re talking about. Just because this site calls itself a “library” doesn’t mean it’s legit.

Stabbytheroomba replied again at 6:42PM:

Sorry, the more I read this reply the more baffling I find it. What does special access for disabilities mean in this case? What do they offer? You do realise that a legit ebook offers a lot of built in functionality for people with disabilities right? Changing and enlarging the font, have your computer read it out loud for you, etc… Do you understand how scans of paper books work (and that’s what this “library” is offering you)? You’d need to OCR it, aka make the text machine readable again, just to get back that functionality that ebooks just HAVE. OCR is incredibly finicky and far from perfect even on really good clear scans - the margin of errors is pretty big. The Internet Archive is not doing you any favours.

Jolly-Bell-5248 replied at 6:44PM:

"While still supporting and paying authors! Wild." Which the Internet Archive literally does because people purchase a book and donate it to them. Wild.

"and making them available for free is something entirely different." So did you miss the part where they're allowing you to digitally borrow the book? You don't get to download anything. You clearly have no clue how the Internet Archive works if you think them lending out books that have been bought and paid for is evil and illegitimate.

This is the most classist capitalist shit I've ever heard lofl. The one library that's *actually* free to borrow from and suddenly it doesn't count as a library! Very convenient.

WalksTheAges replied at 6:44PM:

Except, not everyone has access to a public library.

If you're not even from the US, you really might not understand just how hard it can be to have easy access to books; the USA is absolutely huge, and most towns we've lived in either didn't have a library at all outside of the ones built into the middle/highschool, which weren't accessible to non middle/highschool students, or the library would be over an hour away *by car* on the otherside of town, and, if you can't drive.....

..... you're not really going to walk three hours there and three hours back, are you?

My Library is "just down the road!" and it takes more than half an hour to walk there, with no sidewalks and the temperature getting up to 100+, which means a round trip is at least an hour, not even counting how long I stay to browse the actual library once I arrive there, and then carrying books all the way home, hence my mention of the Libby app, which, again, I had to walk for an hour's travel time just to sign up for a library card in person to even use the Libby app.

The rules for libraries are different in every single state, sometimes even by Counties or Cities within a single State. In my state, you're required to have a state ID to get a library card, which, if you can't drive (and thus, don't have a drivers liscence), means it's very hard to get to the DMV to renew your state ID every few years when it expires, and god forbid you get your wallet stolen.

Most americans don't have easy access to libraries, and more and more places are shutting them down entirely and encouraging the banning of books; the Internet Archive's **Lending Library** is just one of the ways that people are still able to access books even when the state around them is frothing at the mouth

to shut down every single point of access to books they can even *find* in-person.

Again. The Lending Library is literally not violating copyright or hurting authors, it's literally one single copy that average people *donated,* and which people can, one at a time, rent out for a few hours to read. This is literally how I find and discover new authors whose books I then go on to purchase new-- and, to correct, *no* , local library's ebook libraries are not particularly robust, unless you're specifically only in the mood to read what's popular right then and now.

For an example close to Murderbot, If I want to read some of the Stargate novels (what Worldhoppers is based on), my local library's elibrary only has 1 *actual* Stargate book, and it's the 21st book in the series.

It gets even worse if I try to find the original Stargate novel series which are based soley on the 1994 movie which is its own continuity; these books have been out of print for decades at this point, and the only place I've found them to borrow is the Internet Archive, and shelling out $$$ on Ebay for books that are almost 30 years old.

The Internet Archive's lending library is literally not violating copyright, and hundreds of authors have spoken up in desense of the lending library, and local libraries having more fair rights to lend out digital

copies in particular -- the only ones who see the Lending Library as a threat are *publishers*

Jolly-Bell-5348 commented on the original topic at 7:15PM:

You cannot claim you want books to be more accessible to people and then get mad about the Internet Archive accepting book donations that people have fully bought and paid for and lending those donated books out to people completely for free with no hoops to jump through.

I don't know who needs to hear this but not everyone has access to public libraries.

Assuming you even *have* a library in your town, not everyone can physically get to them! The poorer and more disabled you are, the less likely you are to even own a car, let alone be able to drive it!

And in most US cities, walking from point A to B is either literally physically impossible or illegal, or so literally life-threateningly dangerous that you're better off not risking it!

And assuming you *can* get to the library -- guess what! There's no guarentee you can actually get a

library card! Yes, despite how everyone always sings endless praises, libraries aren't perfect, and there are still very real obstacles between some of the most vulnerable people and being able to borrow from a library!

In many places, you can't get a library card unless you have a driver's liscence / state ID. And in some places, even that alone isn't enough -- you also have to provide proof that you live in the city!

Which means homeless people who've had their IDs *literally stolen by the cops,* who don't have a mailing address they can use as proof *they live in the same city as the library* can't get a library card unless they can somehow get to the DMV and miraculously have the money pay for a new ID. Which they can't do without other forms of ID. Which the cops probably also literally stole.

Even if you're not homeless, if someone steals your wallet, and you can't drive, you can't get a library card either now, because you have no ID, and no way to get a new one!

The Internet Archive's lending library is *actually free* and accessible to everyone who can connect to the internet, with no hoops to jump through. You just have to make an account and you can start reading.

Stop claiming you want people to be able to read books if you don't actually want the most vulnerable people to actually be able to read books. Which have already been paid for and helped the authors.

If you don't even understand the bare minimum basics of how the Internet Archive's lending library works, maybe don't go around proclaiming yourself the expert. And if you literally do not live in the USA, don't go around claiming our libraries are freely accessible to everyone when they're literally not!

The Internet Archive does not hurt authors. It does not hurt publishers. If you understand how it's perfectly fucking fine to buy a book and then lend it to your friends so they can all read it, you understand why the Internet Archive *literally accepting fully paid for donations of books which they archive for all of humanity completely for free* is also literally fine.

And if you pretend there's actually some evil difference between the two, you just need to admit you've swallowed the capitalist propaganda that publishing companies, who want to turn books into the next streaming service where you never actually own anything even when you buy it, and you're spreading blatant capitalist propaganda that actual authors hate.

It is literally a fact that if people can borrow a book from a library to read it for free, they are more likely to buy it and the rest of the series than they would if they never got the chance to read it without first forking over hard earned money that could be going towards groceries, for a book it might turn out they absolutely hate every second of.

You cannot claim to support libraries and support making books accessible to everyone and then shit on the Internet Archive. Unless you're also going to claim that lending books out to friends or Little Libraries are also immoral.

You people are really blatantly drinking the capitalist "turn everything into a subscription service possible

so they never own anything and have to keep giving us money" koolaid and we can tell.

Jolly-Bell-5248 edited the original post at 8:39 PM:

Edit, 8:39PM March 28 2024, in response to the capitalist bootlicking a lot of people have decided to get up to.

This is the anticapitalist robots in space fandom. The least you people could do is not mindlessly defend blatant capitalist propaganda.

[ID: The meme from Spongebob of Manray attempting to return Patrick's wallet, while Patrick insists it's not his.

Manray asks, "So you agree with this?", while holding up Patrick's ID card, which has now been edited to read, "Books should be accessible to everyone", with the word everyone underlined for emphasis.

Patrick replies, "Yes, I do."

Manray: So you agree that libraries are good."

Patrick: Yes, libraries are good."

Manray: And you also agree that if I buy a book, and let my friends borrow it, that's good too?"

Patrick: Yes, that's good too.

Manray: You agree that letting my friends borrow a book I paid for isn't stealing from anyone?

Patrick: Duh. You paid for it, you can let anyone borrow it you want. That's not stealing.

Manray: And you also agree that if people are able to borrow a book for free to see if they like it, they're more likely to buy their own copies?

Patrick: Yeah, obviously. People buy books if they like them.

Manray: So, to be clear: If I buy a book, and let 10 friends read it, one at a time, you agree none of us are stealing, because I paid for the book and my friends are only borrowing it. Letting people borrow something you bought isn't stealing.

Patrick: It's not stealing. You can let people borrow your stuff. You own it, it's yours.

Manray: So to reiterate: You agree that books should be available to everyone. You agree libraries are good. You agree its fine to let people borrow books you own, and you agree letting people borrow books

from you isn't stealing anything from anyone.
Correct?

Patrick: Correct.

Manray: So you agree the Internet Archive's lending library, made up of books they own, is good.

Patrick: No. The Internet Archive is evil for lending out books they own for people to read. That's stealing.

End Id.]

jgoloboy commented on the original topic at 10:22PM:

Well, you're stealing from an author you claim to love. I think that's wrong. When you buy a copy of a writer's book, they get paid. When your library buys a copy of the writer's book, the writer gets paid. When you read a stolen PDF from the internet archive, she gets nothing for all her hard work. NOTHING. Is it capitalist to get angry when someone steals from a hard-working artist? Well, fuck me, I'm a capitalist.

Jolly-Bell-5248 replied at 10:24PM:

How about you actually try reading the original post instead of making things up? I believe in you. You can do it. Read the original post. Absorb the information. I promise you can do it.

jgoloboy replied at 10:41PM:

If you don't believe me, maybe you'll believe the Author's Guild: https://form.jotform.com/90035152846151 Or SFWA:

https://www.sfwa.org/2018/01/08/infringement-alert/
Or the National Writers Union: https://nwu.org/-denounces-cdl/

Those writers, capitalists all.

Jolly-Bell-4248 replied at 10:51PM:

Yeah, the first link is claiming the Internet Archive is selling the scans, which they're not. The second link is literally claiming you can download all of the books in any format you want. Which is an outright lie. The third link goes to nowhere, so you didn't even bother to look at it before pasting it. Sarcasm: Good job.

Jolly-Bell-5248 edited the original post at 10:27PM to add:

Edit at 10:27PM: wow you people can't bother to do 5 seconds of research can you? You just happily believe whatever capitalist propaganda gets fed to you don't you?

The Internet Archive's lending library is not "stolen PDFs". It's digital scans of the books they own. One person can digitally borrow it at a time. There's no "stealing" of anything. It's the online equivalent of letting your friend borrow a book from you.

Borrowing books that the Internet Archive owns, because they either bought the books themselves, or other people, like you or me, bought the book and sent it to them, is not piracy. It's not stealing. It is not stealing to let a friend borrow a book you paid for. It is not stealing for the Internet Archive to let you borrow a book they have paid for.

You people are not protecting authors, you're literally just mindlessly repeating capitalist propaganda that does nothing but harm authors. Use five seconds of critical thinking and ask yourself who benefits from making it a crime to let people lend out their own books for other people to read. Because it sure as shit isn't the authors who want people to read their books.

If you are shitting on the Internet Archive's lending library, which does nothing but help authors by allowing more people to read their books that have been paid for, which means they'll go on to buy their own copies, yes, you are pathetically capitalist and Murderbot would laugh in your face lofl.

If I buy a book and let my neighbor borrow it, is he stealing it? Am I? No? Then explain to me in detail why you think it suddenly becomes theft for the Internet Archive to do the same thing. Go ahead.

And if you have no fucking clue how the Internet Archive works, then don't even type anything. Go do at least an hour's worth of research. You are helping no one but billionaires who want to remove your ability to own anything at all.

Jolly-Bell-5248 commented on the original topic at 1:24AM March 29 2024:

By the way, I will just be blocking anyone else who tries to pretend *letting people borrow books you own* is stealing from corporations. I'm not putting up with capitalist bootlicking in a fandom for Anticapitalist Robots in Space.

If Martha Wells wrote about corporations declaring that things you fully bought and paid for don't really belong to you, and said that letting other people borrow them is stealing and would get you sent to a slave planet, you'd all be cheering about how anticapitalist this series is and how ridiculous the evil corporations are. But you can't even recognize the corporate bullshit when it's right in front of you, threatening everyone's right to access information without censorship.

If you insist the Internet Archive is stealing by letting people borrow books they own, do you also think community-filled little libraries are stealing? Do you think letting your neighbor borrow a book is stealing? Do you think buying used books is stealing?

Do you not understand what will happen next if capitalists get to declare that you don't actually own

the books you buy, and if you let anyone borrow them from you, you're stealing?

Can you people please use your brains to think about how capitalism works in real life hand in hand with the rise of fashism across the globe?

Stop drinking the capitalist koolaid, people, it's embarrassing.

Jolly-Bell-5248 edited the original post at 9:50AM March 29 2024 to add:

Edit 9:50AM March 29 2024: Oh, and if you know literally nothing about the current systemic attempt to destroy libraries in the United States, maybe literally don't go around mindlessly singing praise for the fact that libraries can't "lend out" ebooks without bleeding themselves dry constantly paying tens thousands of dollars for them over the course of a few months instead of being allowed to simply buy a single copy. You know. The thing that's literally part of a huge plan to completely end the existence of public libraries in the US by cutting their funding to the bone so that they'll eventually be forced to shut down because they can't keep the lights on? And how so many libraries in the US are already fighting to survive and are calling out the, and I quote, "extortion" being enacted on ebooks, which they're literally not allowed to purchase, as one of the main major drains on what funding they have left? Or are you not even aware of that?

Fashists in the United States have been waging a silent war on public libraries for years. The disgustingly capitalist practice of forcing them to *literally pay thousands of dollars a month* simply to offer ebooks is part of a larger plan to end their existance entirely.

If you're literally not from the United States, and don't know a single thing about the threats our libraries face, and how the blatant scam of "subscription-only ebooks" is a knife in their side bleeding out what little funding they have left...maybe don't fucking pretend you know more about libraries than people who live here and have seen this systemic attack unfold over our lifetimes, which gets worse by the year -.-

You cannot want books to be accessible to everyone and support libraries *and* support the practice of not letting libraries purchase ebooks to lend out, instead forcing them to pay literally thousands of dollars a month to lend out a single fucking copy. You cannot support libraries and the idea that books should be accessible when you think that it should be illegal to let people borrow books *you've fully bought and paid for*.

You're not supporting libraries by supporting the corporate billionaires bleeding them to death.

The subreddit moderator, **sanctuary_moon,** deleted the topic at some point between 9:50 and 10:55 AM March 29 2024

Jolly-Bell-5248 privated messaged **sanctuary_moon** at 10:54AM March 29 2024:

subject chosen from a dropdown menu: No Piracy

Can you please explain why you removed the topic about the Internet Archive's lending library? It's not piracy. People fully pay for the books and let others borrow them. Or are we not allowed to talk about the affects of real-world capitalism in this fangroup for an anticapitalist series?

Jolly-Bell-5248 created the subreddit **r/TheMurderbotDiaries** at 11AM March 29 2024, which will have its own set of archival documents.

Please note: One short comment by **labrys** was not able to be archived before the topic was deleted by **sanctuary_moon**. It was something along the lines of “you can’t block people for spreading misinformation or being bigoted, everyone has the right to their own opinion”. You know the type.

End of this archival document.